THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) to (d) The review of the Drug Policy, 1986, which includes the pricing aspects is at an advanced stage and modifications needed would be announced after finalisation of the decision in this regard.

Cost study tor the price of Ethambutol HCL

1366 SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the cost study into the fair price of Ethambutol HCL conduc ted by the Board of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) and upto what period it is valid;

(b) why fresh study has not been undertaken and the parties were allowed to continue to enjoy high prices;

(c) the number of other bulk drugs, where validity of the pricing period is over but BICP have not conducted fresh study; and

(d) the reasons therefor and who is responsible for such a state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Cost Study conducted by BICP in January, 1991 was valid upto March, 1993. Fresh study has already been initiated by BICP.

(c) and (d) Revision of prices is an on-going exercise. As on 27.7.94, the pricing period in respect of 48 other bulk drugs have expired and fresh cost price studies for all these 48 bulk drugs have already been initiated by BICP. BICP has informed that in several cases completion of studies is delayed due to lack of co-operation from the manufacturing units in furnishing the requisite data. Pending completion of the fresh studies, the prices of bulk drugs on the basis of earlier studies prevail.

New Policy MAPE for category-I

1367. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3871 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2lst April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether under the new policy MAPE for CATEGORY-I formulations is proposed to be increased to 100 per cent and the span of price control is proposed to be reduced to about 45 per cent;

(b) whether this step alongwith the signing of GATT would result in spurt in prices of medicines which have airesdy skyrocketed during the past three pears;

(c) whehter producers and traders are making exorbitant profits as there is no limit on the promotional expenses and trade commission; and

(d) why this aspect has not been studied as a part of review of the drug policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Review of the Drug Policy 1986 which *inter-alia* includes aspects of price control, including MAPE, is still in the process of being finalised. Most of the issues in this regard have already been dis-